

PFLAG TORONTO

Parents, Families and Friends of Lesbians and Gays

December 2010 Newsletter

toronto.office@pflag.ca

PFLAG TORONTO VISION

PFLAG Toronto is a charitable organization that speaks for a more accepting Canadian society by providing support, education and resources to all people who wish to grow in their understanding of sexual and gender diversity.

Through our PFLAG Toronto Chapter, we actively assist in the recognition and growth of gay, lesbian, bisexual, transgender, transsexual, two-spirit, intersex, queer and questioning persons, and their families and friends, within their diverse cultures and societies.

TRANSGENDER DAY OF REMEMBRANCE

On Friday, November 19th, 2010 a Transgender Day of Remembrance Event was held at The 519 Church Street Community Centre.

Four of us from PFLAG Toronto attended this evening event in the upstairs auditorium, which was filled to standing room only.

Allies joined with those transgender people present to memorialize those killed due to anti-transgender prejudice.

Everyone present was touched by the music and poetry; and the sombre reading of the names of those who died by anti-transgender violence left us all deeply moved.



Irene, Ernie and Mary-Jo celebrate at Zelda's

Next Chapter Meeting

Wednesday
January 5, 2011
7:30 p.m.

Kimbourne Park United Church
200 Wolverleigh Blvd.,
Toronto, ON M4C 1S2

A message from your President

Winter days are cold. I layer myself in my long coat and warm hat – and round my neck I wrap my rainbow scarf, hand-knitted by Pam, a PFLAG volunteer with magic fingers. That bright scarf, or the matching mittens, is often a conversation opener when I'm out and about in the city. Whether the person speaking to me recognizes the rainbow for what it is, or just comments on the bright colours, and how cheery it looks – I welcome the opportunity to chat. Sometimes we can help make change happen, one conversation at a time. Look for some pictures of Pam's scarves elsewhere in the newsletter – her handiwork is beautiful.

When I flipped my calendar to December, I was amazed at how busy it was, and I imagine December is like that for many of you. I checked a Diversity Calendar to see what events, celebrations, observations and days of recognition were listed for December – and there were many. Here's what I found...

- *Universal Human Rights Month* ■ *World AIDS Day* ■ *St. Nicholas Day (International)* ■
- *Al Hijra - Muslim New Year* ■ *Bodhi Day - Buddha's Enlightenment (Buddhist)* ■ *Hanukkah (Jewish)*
- *Feast of the Immaculate Conception* ■ *Virgin of Guadalupe (Mexico)* ■ *Santa Lucia Day (Sweden)* ■
- *Muharram, Ashura (Islamic, Muslim)* ■ *Las Posadas (Mexico)* ■ *Winter Solstice (Dec 22-Mar 20)* ■
- *Christmas (Christian, Roman Catholic, International)* ■ *Boxing Day (Canada)* ■
- *Kwanzaa (African-American)* ■ *New Year's Eve (International)* ■

Even if this is not a complete list, it does indicate a wide array of events being recognized by many in our diverse Toronto community.

Perhaps some of us follow traditions that our families have done for years; or perhaps we will try something different this year; either joining in someone else's traditions or starting our own.

Whatever occasions feature in your holiday plans remember that this time of the year can be a very lonely one for people not connected to their families – whether by a distance of miles, or an emotional distance. No-one should be alone, or feel alone at the holidays. There is always room for one more in a PFLAG Family. So reach out - if you see an opportunity to reconnect or make a new connection, take the opportunity! Consider inviting someone to join you and your group of family or friends. If you are invited to go somewhere different, accept! And not just for December – continue into January and beyond - we have diversity on our doorstep - let's celebrate it!

Remember too that visits home can be a time of 'coming out' to one's family, or taking 'the next step' and introducing partners to family members. Be prepared to offer support or suggest friends contact PFLAG for help if things don't go smoothly. Wednesday, January 5th, 2011 is our first Support Meeting of the year, and our telephone support line 416-406-6378 is always there to help.

December and January are cold months for sure, so let's spread some PFLAG warmth by showing our love and support at every opportunity – even if it's chatting about a rainbow scarf on a chilly street corner.

Irene Miller



Sarah, Pam and David at Zelda's



Miss Conception and Pam at Zelda's

Make a donation. Inspire hope.

We need your donation now to help our team ensure we can keep the critical phone lines and Support meetings in place through the New Year.

As a fully volunteer run organization, your donation makes a direct impact in the lives of those who need support and respectfully we would ask you to consider a min. donation of \$25.00.

Please help by making a donation through the secure servers at [CanadaHelps.org](http://www.canadahelps.org) (charitable donation receipts are issued automatically) or send a cheque to PFLAG Toronto, 200 Wolverleigh Blvd., Toronto, ON, M4C 1S2. (charitable donation receipts will be issued for amounts of \$20 or more)

DONATE NOW <http://www.canadahelps.org/CharityProfilePage.aspx?CharityID=s70090>

On behalf of the PFLAG Toronto team, *thank you!*

Charitable Registration BN: 891493348RR0001



Ernie at Zelda's

Next Board Meeting

Wednesday
January 19, 2011
6:30 p.m.

Kimbourne Park United Church
200 Wolverleigh Blvd.,
Toronto, ON M4C 1S2



Simonne and Doug at Zelda's



Simonne about to cut the cake at Irene's

Simonne Lebreton retires from the PFLAG Toronto board

Simonne was honoured at the December board meeting which was held at PFLAG Toronto president Irene Miller's home.

Simonne has served on the PFLAG Toronto board for nine years volunteering in many different areas. For the last seven years she has coordinated the volunteers answering the help line. PFLAG is greatly indebted to Simonne for all her hard work.



Simonne at the board meeting



Simonne with the board members



Irene, Bev and Mary-Jo at Zelda's



Michael and Miss Conception at Zelda's

Message from the Secretary:

As 2010 comes to a close, I would like to take this opportunity to wish everyone a healthy and prosperous New Year.

We are planning to have an exciting year ahead of us, and volunteer support will be absolutely key to our success. If you would like to help with upcoming events, please email: toronto.office@pflag.ca with your contact information. We look forward to working with you

Bev

2011 Bowling Fundraiser

Mark this date on your calendar for the PFLAG Toronto Bowling party.

**Saturday May 14, 2011
at 1:00 – 3:00 p.m.**

at BOWLERAMA WEST
5429 Dundas St. W.



PFLAG Holiday Invitation



Teddy Bears with Rainbow Scarves



Rainbow Scarf

Pam's Knitting For Sale (Net proceeds to PFLAG Toronto)

Cost:	Teddy with rainbow scarf	\$10
	Rainbow mittens	\$10
	Rainbow scarf	\$40

Mailing costs are not included in these prices.

If you are interested in purchasing a rainbow scarf, mittens or teddy send an email to Pam at pamreefair@hotmai.com



Ella with Teddy Bears



Jack and Ella with Rainbow Mitts



Irene at Zelda's Monday night bingo



Irene, Bev & Pam at Zelda's Monday night bingo

PFLAG Toronto is grateful for the support we received with Events, Prizing, and Fundraising. Please give a brief glance over the following list of supporters, as these Community Partners have stood-out in support of PFLAG.

THANK YOU!!

Zelda's Restaurant & Bar

Outlooks Magazine

103.9 Proud FM and team including Mike Chalut, Bingo Bob, Sabrina, Bruce & John Kenyon

Shaun Proulx and Shaun Proulx Media

The Marble Slab Creamery - for donating amazing Ice Cream as our Holiday Event dessert

MGS Marketing

Erick Pasibi for making our designs look great !

Miss Conception, Heroine Marks, Helen Heels, Sima, Pride Toronto, and Michael Swann.

And all PFLAG Volunteers and Attendees who helped to make our Holiday Event happen !

Raffle Prizes donated by:

The Delta Chelsea Hotel

Coty Canada

Club 584 Salon & Spa, on Church St.

Priape Toronto

The Ontario Gay & Lesbian Chamber of Commerce

GLOW Tanning Studio

4Voo Luxury Skin Care & Cosmetics for Men

Author, Steven Berenzi, *"The Adventure of Philippe in the Outside World"*

103.9 ProudFM

David Shodeen